

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

The specification is herein amended to conform with 37 C.F.R. § 1.77(b).

Support for the amendment of Claim 10 is found on page 10, lines 1-5 in the specification and in the Figure (one or more separation stages in the lower combined column region). Support for the term “economically acceptable” is found on page 6, lines 13-16, in the specification.

Support for the amendment of Claims 11 and 12 is found on page 3, lines 18-20, in the specification and in original Claims 2 and 3.

Support for Claim 15 is found in Claim 10 and original Claim 15.

Claims 10-21 are amended to use wording and structure consistent with U.S. patent law practice and to describe proper antecedent reference between the claims.

No new matter is believed added to this application by entry of this amendment.

Upon entry of this amendment, Claims 10-21 are active.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Manoharin for the indication that the claims would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. The rejections are believed to be obviated by appropriate amendment as listed below:

a) Claim 10 is amended to describe a process comprising active operations according to the claimed invention. The claims is not in Jepson format.

b) Passive terms such as “by extractive distillation” are replaced with active terms such as “extractively distilling” throughout the claims.

c) Claim 10 is herein amended to include description that the lower combined column region has one or more separation stages. Support for this description is provided in the

Support for Amendments section of this paper. Claims 13 and 14 now properly refer to the one or more separation stages.

The descriptor "C" is deleted from Claim 13.

d) Claims 11 and 12 are amended to include the description "economically acceptable" to describe the proportion.

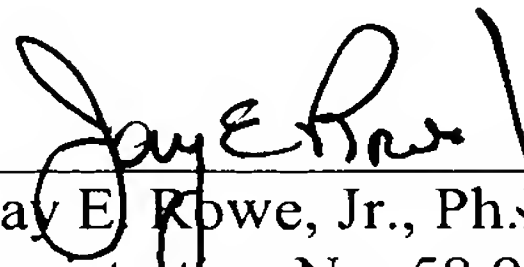
e) Claim 15 is rewritten as an independent claim.

f) The claims are amended to consistently use the term "outgasser."

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance and early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Abstract (Marked-up Copy)

~~A process is proposed for obtaining crude~~ 1,3-butadiene is obtained by extractive distillation with a selective solvent from a C₄ cut comprising C₄ acetylenes as secondary components in a dividing wall column (TK) having a bottom evaporator (V1), in which a dividing wall (T) is disposed in the longitudinal direction of the column to form a first subregion (A), a second subregion (B) and a lower combined column region, (C), ~~and which~~ The column is disposed upstream of an extractive wash column, (K), ~~which comprises controlling the~~ The energy input into the dividing wall column (TK) via the bottom evaporator (V1) is controlled in such a way that a bottom stream (17) containing solvent, ~~is drawn off from the dividing wall column (TK) and comprises solvent laden with the~~ C₄ acetylenes whose proportion of and 1,3-butadiene ~~[[is]]~~ restricted such that the loss of 1,3-butadiene is economically acceptable, is drawn off and ~~feeding the bottom stream (17)~~ fed to an acetylenes outgasser (AG) ~~and, in the acetylenes outgasser (AG), stripping out~~ where the C₄ acetylenes are stripped out overhead and ~~obtaining~~ purified solvent is obtained as the bottom stream (27).